

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-7.

Please add the following claims:

1 8. (new) A method for the remote identification of labels (E) provided with a  
2 distinctive code and situated in a field (2) of an interrogation apparatus (1), by sending  
3 and receiving signals between the interrogator and the labels, the labels being able to be  
4 inhibited, comprising the following steps:

5 - prior identification step adapted to a context with a single label, allowing the  
6 rapid identification, by reading its code, of a single label on a single signal of the  
7 interrogator when the said single label is alone in the field (2) of the interrogation  
8 apparatus (1);

9 - label identification step of identifying the said labels by successively reading the  
10 code of each of the said labels whilst temporarily inhibiting the other labels which are not  
11 yet identified if the interrogation apparatus (1) finds that several of the labels are present  
12 at the same time in the field (2),

13 - information passage step of passing information between the interrogation  
14 apparatus and the label which has just been identified; and

15 - definitive inhibition step of definitively inhibiting the label which has just been  
16 identified.

1 9. (new) A remote identification method according to Claim 8, further  
2 comprising a label identification confirmation step, which precedes and influences the  
3 information passage step, comprising the sending of a signal containing at least part of  
4 the code of the label which has just been identified.

1 10. (new) A remote identification method according to Claim 8, wherein the  
2 labels can enter the field (2) of the identification apparatus (1) and leave it in a random  
3 fashion, and wherein the label identification step is undertaken in either one code reading  
4 direction from most significant data or another code reading direction from least  
5 significant data for each of the labels.

1 *Device* 11. (new) A device for the remote identification of labels by an interrogation  
2 apparatus, the interrogation apparatus (1) and the labels (E) comprising signal  
3 transceivers (5, 10), converters (6, 7, 14, 15) converting the signals into logic information  
4 and vice versa, and means (8, 16) for logic information processing, the labels each  
5 comprising a distinctive code and a memory, and the interrogation apparatus comprising  
6 a signal catalogue, wherein the signal catalogue comprises a first signal for demanding  
7 the sending of the label codes by fragments in a first reading direction from most  
8 significant data, a prior signal for demanding the sending of the entire label code by at  
9 least one of the labels, a passage signal initiating a passage of information between the  
10 interrogating apparatus and a label which has just been identified, and a definitive signal  
11 for the definitive inhibition of the label which has just been identified.

1 12. (new) A remote identification device according to Claim 11, wherein the  
2 signal catalogue comprises a second signal for demanding the sending of the label codes  
3 in fragments, in a second reading direction which is the reverse of the first reading  
4 direction.